



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

Providence VA Medical Center
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Adaptive Summer Sports Clinic for New England Veterans

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The Providence VA Medical Center and VA Boston Health Care System are hosting a joint Summer Adaptive Sports Clinic July 15 through 18 for Veterans enrolled in VA New England Health Care.

Nearly 40 disabled Veterans traveled to Rhode Island for the clinic, which features adaptive sporting events including cycling, deep sea fishing, golf, kayaking, sailing and surfing. Events are scheduled in Coventry, Middletown, Newport, Point Judith and Providence. Participants' conditions include amputations, traumatic brain injuries, burn injuries, psychological trauma, certain neurological conditions, spinal cord injuries, visual impairments and other injuries.

"The summer sports clinic is a powerful experience for both Veterans and volunteers," said Dr. Susan MacKenzie, director of the Providence VAMC. "It helps the Veterans refocus from what they can't do to a wide range of activities they can do with practice and the right equipment."

This year's Summer Sports Clinic is sponsored by – in alphabetical order: American Legion Aux SPRM Unit 81, American Legion Aux. Downey-Weaver Post 34, American Legion Aux. William Shields Jr. Unit 43, American Legion Dept. of Mass., Amp Surf, Bedford VA Medical Center, Bike-On, Button Hole Golf Course, CCRI Dept. of Rehabilitative Health – Therapeutic Massage Program, Dave & Busters, Dept of R.I. American Legion Auxiliary, Harold "Buck" Seamans, In Memory of Barbara Reardon, Iron Mountain, Manchester VA Medical Center, Massachusetts Elks Association, New England Healing Sports Association, New England Paralyzed Veterans of America, Northeast Passage, Omni Providence Hotel, Providence VA Medical Center, Providence VA Voluntary Service Committee, R.I. Party and Charter Boat Association, Rhode Island State Elks, Sail to Prevail, Soldier's Angels, Twelve Acres, VA Boston Healthcare System, VA New England Healthcare System, Veterans of Foreign Wars Dept. of Mass., and the White River Junction VA Medical Center.

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Jackie Morrison from Sail to Prevail, far left, sails near Fort Adams State Park in Newport, R.I., Tuesday, July 16, 2019, with, from left to right, Army Veteran Johnny Vacca, a patient of the VA Hudson Valley Health Care System and resident of Albany, N.Y.; Navy Veteran Russell Cokonis, a patient of the VA Boston Health Care System and resident of Norton, Mass.; Army Veteran Paul Raiche, a VA Boston patient, and his wife Barbara, residents of West Newbury, Mass.; and Navy Seabee Veteran Jim Tynan, a patient of the Brockton VA Medical Center and resident of Taunton, Mass., during the VA New England Healthcare System's Summer Adaptive Sports Clinic, hosted by the Providence VA Medical Center and the Boston VA Health Care System. Support for sailing was provided by Sail to Prevail of Newport, R.I. Nearly 40 disabled Veterans traveled to Rhode Island for the clinic, which runs July 15 through 18, and features adaptive sporting events including cycling, deep sea fishing, golf, kayaking, sailing and surfing. (Providence VA Medical Center photo by Winfield Danielson)

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